

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 /092 W
-----130904 071249Z /20

R 071141Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7010
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 29608

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB FR
SUBJECT: THE CGT AND THE EUROPEAN TRADE UNION
CONFEDERATION

REF: PARIS 13442 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: FO HEARS FROM A GERMAN SOURCE THAT ETUC
GENERAL SECRETARY VETTER'S SCHEDULED DEPARTURE FROM THE
ETUC REALLY STEMS FROM HIS OPPOSITION TO AN EMERGING
CONSENSUS WITHIN THAT ORGANIZATION TO LET THE CGT IN.
WE HAVE GOTTEN A SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT VERSION OF THE
SAME STORY DIRECTLY. END SUMMARY.

2. FORCE OUVRIERE (FO) TELLS US THAT THEY HAVE HEARD
THAT THERE IS MORE TO THE DECISION BY THE EUROPEAN
TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION'S (ETUC) GENERAL SECRETARY
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VETTER NOT TO SEEK REELECTION THAN ONE MIGHT THINK.
SPECIFICALLY, A GERMAN OFFICIAL CLOSE TO THE DGB, HAS
TOLD FO THAT VETTER'S DECISION NOT TO BE A CANDIDATE
TO SUCCEED HIMSELF AT THE MAY 1979 ETUC CONGRESS
REALLY STEMS FROM HIS CONVICTION THAT THERE IS ALREADY
A BRITISH-SCANDINAVIAN LED CONSENSUS AMONGST THE
ORGANIZATION'S MEMBERS (OTHER THAN FO) TO ADMIT THE

CGT. VETTER, ACCORDING TO THIS STORY, IS PERSONALLY
OPPOSED TO ANY SUCH MOVE, AND RATHER THAN BE HUMILIATED
BY BEING BEATEN ON THE VOTE HAS DECIDED TO STEP DOWN.
FO IS CURRENTLY TRYING TO VERIFY THIS STORY IN ADVANCE
OF VETTER'S SEPTEMBER 15 VISIT TO THEIR PARIS HEAD-
QUARTERS.

3. WE HEAR FROM THE GERMAN LABOR ATTACHE THAT VETTER
IS INDEED LEAVING ETUC FOR REASONS OTHER THAN THE
OFFICIAL ONE (HE IS AN SPD CANDIDATE FOR THE EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT). ACCORDING TO THIS VERSION OF THE STORY,
HOWEVER, VETTER IS MOTIVATED BY WHAT THE GERMANS
PERCEIVE AS A TUC-LED GANGING UP ON THE DGB, STARTING
IN THE EUROPEAN METALWORKERS FEDERATION AND NOW
SPREADING TO ETUC. THE DGB IS SAID TO BE PARTICULARLY
ANNOYED OVER THE WAY IN WHICH THE TUC AND THE FRENCH
LEFT-SOCIALIST CFDT HAVE BEEN WORKING QUIETLY TO-
GETHER, FOR SOME TIME, BEHIND THE DGB'S BACK, TO PUSH
THE CGT'S CANDIDACY FOR ETUC MEMBERSHIP. THE RECENT
PRESS REPORTS OF A JOINT CFDT-TUC ANNOUNCEMENT AT THE
TUC CONGRESS IN SUPPORT OF CGT MEMBERSHIP WE ARE TOLD,
IS THE FRUIT OF BEHIND-THE-BACK DEALS BETWEEN THE TWO
CONFEDERATIONS GOING BACK AT LEAST TO THIS SPRING. AS

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 29608

A CONSEQUENCE, WE ARE TOLD THAT THE DGB INTENDS TO LOWER ITS PROFILE, DRASTICALLY, AND LET THE OTHERS PLAY THEIR GAMES.

4. COMMENT: WE NOTE THE SIMILARITY, UP TO A POINT, BETWEEN THE TWO STORIES WHICH SUGGESTS A COMMON ORIGIN. NATURALLY, WE ARE IN NO POSITION TO GAUGE THE ACCURACY--IF ANY--WITH WHICH THEY PORTRAY THE DGB'S AND VETTER'S POSITIONS, BUT IT DOES APPEAR THAT SOME GERMANS, AT LEAST, ARE SIGNALING FO THAT THE ADMISSION OF THE CGT INTO ETUC IS NOW A FOREGONE CONCLUSION; AND THAT THE FAULT DOES NOT LIE WITH EITHER VETTER OR THE DGB.

5. IN THAT CONNECTION, THE VERSION FO HAS IS THAT
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NOT ONLY IS THE CGT TO BE ADMITTED (WITH THE SPANISH WORKERS' COMMISSIONS AND THE PORTUGUESE INTER-SYNDICAL); BUT THAT THE INSISTENCE THAT THE CGT FIRST LEAVE THE PRAGUE-BASED WORLD FEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS WILL ALSO BE DROPPED. WE VIEW THESE DETAILS WITH SUSPICION, PARTICULARLY AS THE APPARENT TIMING OF THE DECISION TO ADMIT THE CGT (AFTER MAY 1979) SEEMINGLY WOULD PERMIT THE CGT'S NOVEMBER CONGRESS TO GIVE THE EXECUTIVE CARTE BLANCHE ON THE WFTU AFFILIATION ISSUE (SEE REFTTEL). IN THAT CONNECTION, WE NOTE THAT CGT GENERAL SECRETARY SEGUY HAS TOLD HIS FO COUNTERPART BERGERON THAT HIS UNION WILL LEAVE THE WFTU.

6. THESE RUMORS MAY WELL COME UP DURING THE VISIT TO THE US, BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 9, OF FO TREASURER DORIAN AND PARIS REGIONAL LEADER PAYEMENT. IN THAT CONNECTION, GIVEN THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONAL AND PERSONALITY RIVALRIES AND INTERESTS AT PLAY IN THIS SITUATION, IT IS NOT IMPOSSIBLE THAT SOME PEOPLE ARE TRYING - VIA THE RUMOR MILL - TO PROVOKE FO INTO TAKING DEFEATING PRECIPITOUS ACTION NOW, RATHER THAN WAITING TO SEE WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENS IN THE MONTHS TO COME.
HARTMAN

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